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THE SPANISH JADE

Photoplay in five reels

From the story by Maurice Hewlett

Scenario by Josephine Lovett

Supervised by Tom J. Geraghty

Author of the photoplay (Under Sec. 62)
Famous Players Lasky Corporation of the U. S.

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"SPANISH JADE"

The Cast.

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Don Luis Ramon de Alavia.....Marc MacDermott
Esteban, his son.....Charles de Rochefort
Gil Perez, romantic adventurer...David Powell
Manuela.....Evelyn Brent
Manuela's stepfather.....Lionel D'Aragon
Tormillo, Don Luis' servant.....Frank Stemmors
Esteban's spy and confidant.....Roy Byford
Oswald Manvers.....Harry Ham

Manuela, a beautiful Spanish peasant girl, has a good-for-nothing stepfather who has gambled away the last of his possessions to Esteban de Alavia, the unworthy son of a noble Spanish house. Esteban has a gambling-booth at the fair in the neighbouring village and induces his victim to try his luck once more with Manuela as the stake against all that he has lost in the past month. Manuela, ignorant of this infamous transaction, attends the fair with her stepfather and there meets again with Gil Perez, a romantic adventurer with a big heart and a slender purse, who had been attracted by the girl on their first meeting at her father's farm. He learns from a spy of Esteban's that Manuela is his employer's "latest woman," and is soon after bewildered by the girl's assurance that she dislikes Esteban. Guessing that some mischief is afoot, he warns Manuela and she seeks her stepfather out to ask him to take her home. But her stepfather, who has played his last stake and lost, drives away and tells her she now belongs to Esteban. The distracted girl now has no other thought but to hide herself away from Esteban and flees in the direction of the nearest town. Perez meanwhile has kept Esteban employed in the gambling-booth to give Manuela her chance to get away. Having successfully broken the bank, he now sets out to follow her up in case she needs his assistance.

It is only after he has left that Esteban learns that Perez was chiefly instrumental in engineering her escape from his clutches and at once follows

in pursuit.

Outside the city gates, Oswald Manvers, a young American professor who is doing research work in the district, rescues Manuela from a number of young roughs and takes her to a place of safety.

Esteban learns from Manuela's late aggressors of Manver's intervention and follows up the trail. He overtakes the fugitives on the outskirts of a wood. Manvers, deceived by Esteban's affability and courteous manner, leaves Manuela in his charge whilst he himself goes for a dip. Hardly has he gone, when Esteban tells Manuela that he intends to kill Manvers and take his horse and money. Manuela, fearing that her cry of horror will bring Manvers to his death, fights madly with Esteban for the possession of his knife. In their struggle, she succeeds in overthrowing him and he is killed with his own weapon. Terrified, the girl mounts Esteban's horse and takes to flight.

Manvers on returning fails to find either Manuela or Esteban. Believing that the girl has decided in his absence to trust herself to the protection of one of her own countrymen, he feels distinctly relieved. He remembers that only that day he had written to Joan, his fiancée in America, his assurance that her fears about the violence of the Spanish temperament had been greatly exaggerated and smiles now at the naivete of his hasty judgment. He goes back to his hotel, well content that his first adventure in knight-errantry has found its satisfactory conclusion.

On the plains, Manuela meets Perez and tells him how Esteban has met his death and urges him to save Manvers, who, she fears, will be suspected of his murder. Perez, who has learnt to love the persecuted girl, mistak on Manuela's solicitude for the American for a warmer sentiment, but chivalrously resolves to serve the interests of the man who had so chivalrously come to her rescue.

He gives Manuela money to find a lodging in Seville and rides off in the direction of the woods, where he meets with Manvers and tells him what has happened. Both men decide that at all costs Manuela must be spared any further suffering.

From his faithful servant Tormillo, Don Louis, Esteban's father, learns of his son's tragic end. Don Louis, who is a typical Spanish grandee, has always strongly disapproved of Esteban's mode of living, but his family pride demands that his son shall be avenged. From Esteban's friend, Tormillo learns that Manvers and Manuela know more about the matter than they would care to have divulged. He lies in wait for the American and stabs him in the back. The wound fortunately is not fatal, but during the long period of convalescence, it dawns upon Manvers that Don Luis, believes him to be the murderer of his son. His sense of humor prompts him to cable Joan the laconic message "You were right," whereupon Joan and her mother sensing that something is seriously amiss, promptly set out for Spain.

It is only after Manvers' recovery that Perez breaks the news to him that Manuela has given herself up to the authorities for Esteban's murder to save the man who had shown her a kindness from further dangers.

Manvers secures the services of an advocate to defend Manuela at her trial, but realizes on the first day that he is up against a judge obviously prejudiced and influenced by the high standing of the murdered man's father. Following the advice of the advocate, he tries the effect of a bribe, believes, however, that the judge, who had accepted the bribe with alacrity, has double-crossed him, when he condemns Manuela to life-imprisonment at the reformatory of La Recogida. Perez explains that the sentence is fair to her as the law allows a woman to be released if there is a man willing to marry her. With a pang, Manvers thinks of Joan, the only woman he has ever loved, but remembering that Manuela's terrible plight had been brought about in her attempt to save him from Esteban's

knife, he proclaims before the whole court that he will make her his wife.

Termillo profits by the uproar to make a second attempt on Manvers' life, but Perez frustrates his intention by throwing himself in front of the American, thus receiving a wound in his stead.

Pending the necessary formalities, Manuela is removed to La Recogida. Before her removal, she enters into a secret pact with Don Luis that Manvers shall be offered no further molestation, if she is prepared to atone for Esteban's death with her own life.

It thus happens that one night she leaves the reformatory under Termillo's escort and proceeds to a given spot where Don Luis awaits her. Termillo hands Esteban's knife to Don Luis, and Manuela bares her throat for the death blow.

At this moment Perez interposes. He had followed Manuela and Termillo and witnessed the whole scene. He offers himself as a sacrifice in Manuela's stead, but she clings to him in passionate protest and the anguish of the moment wrings from her the secret that it is Perez alone she loves.

Don Luis flings away the knife and strides silently away. He realizes that as Manuela loves Perez, it was only gratitude to Manvers for his act of chivalry which prompted her sacrifice. The feud is at an end.

Thus Manvers is free once more to marry Joan, who has found it very difficult to understand his explanations on her arrival in Spain.

And soon after, a happy wedding party leaves the gloomy walls of La Recogida. Perez lifts his bride to the back of his faithful burro, and thus they set out together on their journey into a brighter future.

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